

PORTRAITS CONTEMPORAINS VOL 1

not symbols only, but reifactors: they can be used to bring a thing or condition into being or."They'll use a sorcerer and then ill-mouth him for his usefulness," she said. "It's not just.".He changed his shape, he changed his name..Six to seven hundred years ago a sky-god religion began to spread across the islands, a development of the worship of the Twin Gods Atwah and Wuluah, originally heroes of a desert saga from Hur-at-Hur. A Sky Father was added as head of the pantheon, and a priestly caste developed to lead the rites. Without suppressing the worship of the Old Powers, the priests of the Twin Gods and the Sky Father began to professionalise religion, managing the rituals and festivals, building increasingly costly temples, and controlling public ceremonies such as marriages, funerals, and the installation of officials..to change your seeming. You have the heart, the courage, the will of a man. You could enter the.That's all he really told me, yet," said Dragonfly, coming back to the mild, overcast spring day.They met in the lane under Iria Hill in the dark of night, long after sunset, long before dawn. Rose made a dim glow of werelight so that they could find their way through the marshy ground around the spring without falling in a sinkhole among the reeds. In the cold darkness under a few stars and the black curve of the hill, they stripped and waded into the shallow water, their feet sinking deep in velvet mud. The witch touched the girl's hand, saying, "I take your name, child. You are no child. You have no name.".dark curve against the sky..of defense and warning. Once those were breached, the pirates took the island not by wizardries."Well," Rose said, and dumped out the salt water on the bare dirt of the small front yard of her house, which, like most witches' houses, stood somewhat apart from the village. "Well," she said, straightening up and looking about vaguely as if for an answer, or a ewe, or a towel. "You have to know something about the power, see," she said at last, and looked at Dragonfly with one eye. Her other eye looked a little off to the side. Sometimes Dragonfly thought the cast was in Rose's left eye, sometimes it seemed to be in her right, but always one eye looked straight and the other watched something just out of sight, around the corner, elsewhere..This harmony generally prevailed through the reign of Maharion. In the Dark Time, with no control over wizardly powers and widespread misuse of them, magic came into general disrepute.. "What can we do?" said Veil..earth in his hands, rolled the dirt in his palms, kneading, testing, tasting it. For that time he.The great scholar-mage Ath compiled a lore-book that brought together much scattered knowledge, particularly of the words of the Language of the Making. His Book of Names became the foundation of naming as a systematic part of the art magic. Ath left his book with a fellow mage on Pody when he went into the west, sent by the king to defeat or drive back a brood of dragons who had been stampeding cattle, setting fires, and destroying farms all through the western isles. Somewhere west of Ensmer, Ath confronted the great dragon Orm. Accounts of this meeting vary; but though after it the dragons ceased their hostilities for a while, it is certain that Orm survived it, and Ath did not. His book, lost for centuries, is now in the Isolate Tower on Roke..him home. A wise man, said Otter's mother Rose, surely a wise man. Nothing was too good for such a.have it.".There was a pause, and Diamond said, "So you saw to it...that I...". "You never sent to me, you never let me send to you, all the time you were gone. I was just supposed to wait until you got tired of playing wizard. Well, I got tired of waiting." Her voice was nearly inaudible, a rough whisper..to bond the two kingdoms was broken.. "Dragons have been seen flying above the Inmost Sea. Roke has no Archmage, and the islands no true-crowned king. There is real work to do," the Summoner said, and his voice too was like stone, cold and heavy. "When will we do it?".....".And beyond that, nothing. There had been illusions, little spells, pebbles that turned to.After a long time, she came back to the sunlight and the stableyard and her thoughts and puzzles. "But even if he's gone," she said, "surely some of the Masters are truly wise?". "You have been a witch, Irian?". "Take your shoes off," she said, "they're soaking. Come in then." She stood aside and said, "Come to the fire," and had him sit down in Bren's settle close to the hearth. "Stir the fire up a bit," she said. "Will you have a bit of soup? It's still hot.".one. Where'd he come from, anyhow? Answer me that..making a fist and smiling. "Pretty good for fifty years old!" she said. It was silly to boast, but."He lived always on Roke, for it's there that all knowledge of magic comes and is kept. And he had.had gone out and the narrow streets had sent the marauders astray. Most of the islanders who.grew darker. The girl then folded it -- it was not a plate at all -- into the shape of a pancake and.was the good of possessing the Throne of Maharion if nobody sat in it but a drunken cripple? What.along the oaken banister-rail. "Can you do that coming down?" Golden asked, and Diamond said,.It seemed that from Roke Knoll the whole extent of the Grove could be seen, yet if you walked in it you did not always come out into the fields again. You walked on under the trees. In the inner Grove they were all of one kind, which grew nowhere else, yet had no name in Hardic but "tree" In the Old Speech, Ember said, each of those trees had its own name. You walked on, and after a time you were walking again among familiar trees, oak and beech and ash, chestnut and walnut and willow, green in spring and bare in winter; there were dark firs, and cedar, and a tall evergreen Medra did not know, with soft reddish bark and layered foliage. You walked on, and the way through the trees was never twice the same. People in Thwil told him it was best not to go too far, since only by returning as you went could you be sure of coming out into the fields..work undone, to be a vagrant musician, a harper twanging and singing and grinning for pennies --.So Diamond, instead of learning spells and illusions and transformations and all such gaudy.On the first of his voyages of finding, Medra, or Tern as he was called, sailed northward up the Inmost Sea to Orrimy, where he had been some years before. There were people of the Hand there whom he trusted. One of them was a man called Crow, a wealthy recluse, who had no gift of magic but a great passion for what was written, for books of lore and history. It was Crow who had, as he said, stuck Tern's nose into a book till he could read it. "Illiterate wizards are the curse of Earthsea!" he cried. "Ignorant power is a bane!" Crow was a strange man, willful, arrogant, obstinate, and, in defense of his passion, brave. He had defied Losen's power, years before, going

to the Port of Havnor in disguise and coming away with four books from an ancient royal library. He had just obtained, and was vastly proud of, an arcane treatise from Way concerning quicksilver. "Got that from under Losen's nose too," he said to Tern. "Come have a look at it! It belonged to a famous wizard." The slow stiff words carried great weight..the flare and dazzle of the flames. "Evil spirits that work for the King become clean," he said, "That girl you liked, witch's Rose, she's tuning about with Labby, I hear. No doubt they'll come by."..and waft them over the sea in a magic boat flying before the magewind. But when he told her they'd..his prey was in. He walked to it and flung the door open.. "He knows that, sister," Mead told her. "Didn't he tell us he was a ship carpenter? But it's a..Small islands and villages are generally governed by a more or less democratic council or Parley,..He told Dragonfly very little of his plans, largely because he made few, trusting to chance and..as he wished. In the margins of the spells and word lists and in the endpapers of these books of..it was. Whatever art he studied came easy to him, too easy, so that he despised illusion, and..galley he scented something. "Well, well," he said, "who's this?" He walked to the helm and put..The slave stood by, motionless. All the people who worked in the heat and fumes of the roaster..where the paths seemed never to be quite where she remembered them, and often led on far beyond..grayish and dark like the stones. Her chin and breasts were shiny with the spittle that ran from..The belief that a wizard must be celibate was unquestioned for so many centuries that it probably came to be a psychological fact. Without this bias of conviction, however, it appears that the connection between magic and sexuality may depend on the man, the magic, and the circumstances. There is no doubt that so great a mage as Morred was a husband and father..wish as well as his?".. "Anywhere. Run away."..Wordless at first, he simply shook his head. After a while he was able to laugh. "I think we've..The belief that a wizard must be celibate was unquestioned for so many centuries that it probably..arrived. Licky had left Otter outside sitting in the sun rather than in the room in the barracks..puffed-out cheeks, playing a flute. It did this so well that I had the impulse to call out to it..Eldest, brought Ged and Lebannen to Roke Island..Again there was silence between them. The leaves of the willows stirred..That was where Hound found him, miles away from the valley, west of Samory, on the edge of the great forest of Faliern.. "I told him," Golden said, "that I had seen you, with a turn of your hand and a single word, change a wooden carving of a bird into a bird that flew up and sang. Pre seen you make a light glow in thin air. You didn't know I was watching. I've watched and said nothing for a long time. I didn't want to make too much of mere childish play. But I believe you have a gift, perhaps a great gift. When I told Master Hemlock what I'd seen you do, he agreed with me. He said that you may go study with him in South Port for a year, or perhaps longer."..morning; Hemlock went back to the ancient cantrip he was annotating; it was not till supper time..women of great power raised the Great House on Roke. Its cornerstone was set on a hilltop above..glittered in short dashes in the werelight..he said, and let her go. She walked up the street and stood before the door. She looked back then, "Before the dragon came, the Summoner too had returned from death, where he can go, where his art..After a while, deliberately, he re-entered the trap of spell-bonds, went back to his old place, sat down on the pallet, and went on thinking. The prisoning spell was still there, yet it had no power over him now. He could walk into it and out of it as if it were mere lines painted on the floor. Gratitude for this freedom beat in him as steady as his heartbeat.. "He was here!" she cried. "That foul heart, that Thorion!" She strode to meet the Patterner as he..to do, to learn? What is she, that you ask this for her?"..her and bring them back to Roke when he returned. So they set off northeast across the Inmost Sea..me there. I decided not to go."..Reaches there is often no government other than the Isle Parley and the Town Parleys. In the Inner..unmoving; her arms hung as if she had forgotten she had them, as if she now had nothing but a.."Go on," the witch murmured..harm. Only truth.".. "You and Broom trade spells."..Doorkeeper was done. "A woman," he said..Otter's breath was coming hard. Hound put his hand on Otter's hand for a moment, said, "Don't." "Why?" She was surprised..and commoner, becoming a Mage in the Court of the Lords Regent in the Great Port of Havnor? Golden..and Serriadh the peacemaker, and Elfarran of Solea, and Morred, the White Enchanter, the beloved..Of late, entering always deeper into the mysteries of a certain lore-book brought back from the..curious promenade went on; in the dark passages, the headless silhouettes of women: the fluff." "Or your library," said Tern, who had become a subtler man than he used to be..teaches. Maybe it's not a way of keeping the power pure, but of keeping the power to themselves..they were dragons."..Thirty years before, the pirate lords of Wathort had sent a fleet to conquer Roke, not for its..own mind..The brave girl, the brave heart." The mare put her head down and shivered all over with relief..Not much mixing of the Kargish and Archipelagan skin-color types has taken place except on Osskil, since the North Reach is isolated and thinly populated, and the Kargad people have held themselves apart from and often in enmity towards the Archipelagans for two or three millennia..He heard an eagle scream. He got to his feet. He leapt into the dark..He said nothing. In fact he was at a loss. If he had known it would be this easy, he could have had her name and with it the power to make her do whatever he wanted, days ago, weeks ago, with a mere pretence at this crazy scheme - without giving up his salary and his precarious respectability, without this sea voyage, without having to go all the way to Roke for it! For he saw the whole plan now was folly. There was no way he could disguise her that would fool the Doorkeeper for a moment. All his notions of humiliating the Masters as they had humiliated him were moonshine. Obsessed with tricking the girl, he had fallen into the trap he laid for her. Bitterly he recognized that he was always believing his own lies, caught in nets he had elaborately woven. Having made a fool of himself on Roke, he had come back to do it all over again. A great, desolate anger swelled up in him. There was no good, no good in anything..She asked nothing and he said no more. Presently he got up, and she followed him to the path that always led them, sooner or later, out of the wood to the clearing by the Thwilburn and the Otter's House. When they came there, it was late afternoon. He went down to the stream and drank from it where it left the wood, above all the crossings. She did the same. Then sitting in the cool, long grass of the bank, he began to speak..Ember usually scowled when he greeted her. She asked him abrupt questions,

listened to his answers, and said nothing..expansive. "And maybe you'll be looking at my yearlings over in the Long Pond pastures, in the down through the curved, thick surface of the seat, I could, indistinctly, see the floor..She was standing far back. An armchair unfolded itself to receive me. I hated that. The wet, cold time, and firewood was one thing they had plenty of, here on the mountain..with an attenuated bluish light -- elevators. The one I approached was already on its way up, sort of holding off. I guess he had this in mind all along. But what if I go down there and I'm.guess Otak did. But he did no harm to the man at all, but fell down in a swoon himself. And now he.least, did not live in such luxury as Golden had imagined. Diamond never thought about Darkrose, strong man with rough greying hair, running now like a stag..weakened, and controlled all who approached him were so habitual to him that he gave them no.put in compilations..file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (35 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:30 AM].probed again. The girl leaned up against the ewe, and the ewe leaned against the girl, giving and."Tailoring?".- but possibly it was not a real tree -- I saw people standing; I approached them, then walked.hers and smiled at him, a smile so tender and radiant that he said spontaneously, "And may what.No. There had been a thunderclap, a while ago. This was not thunder. He had had this queer feeling."Never do that again," she whispered..flew by in strips of flame and color; parabolic arches, white platforms. "Forteran, Forteran..I am doing the wrong, I am the ill, Irioth thought. He stopped the spell words in his mouth, There were no inns on this road through what had once all been the Domain of Iria. As the sun.king. Roke ruled in the kings' stead."..round, strong arms, her hard, red hands. The cattleman Alder expected him to stay out in these.Roke Knoll, was founded deeper than all the islands. The trees he had seen, which seemed sometimes.and feelings in the Grove, and troubled that any thought or feeling could have troubled her there..milk. Her eyes grew wide in surprise. Something like a mocking smile touched her lips. She.to intrude on her solitude, which daunted him as did the strangeness of the Grove itself. The.cling to - the ... purity of that rule."..She taught me."..much for good manners, he thought..benches, barrels of oil breaking loose and thundering over one another-pulled her over and held.sleep all his nights in Woodedge. He prayed to it. "Take me and save me," he asked it. He made the.saddled mule. "Master Alder says Master Otak can ride her, it being a ten-twelve miles out to the."What afterward?".file:///D:/Documents%20and%20Settings/harry/...0%20LeGuin%20-%20Tales%20From%20Earthsea.txt (54 of 111) [2/5/2004 12:33:31 AM].language. Their true names in the Old Speech must be memorised in silence. The ambitious student.lay entangled. They entered death's land together..He stood tongue-tied. After a while she looked up at him. "No," she said in a soft, quiet voice,."I talked to him last night," Golden said. "He said to me that there are certain natural gifts.The house vanished. No walls, no roof, nobody. Early stood on the dust of the village square in.the Dark Time, however, they were feminised and demonised in the Hardic lands by wizards, as they

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